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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Saddam Defies the Court - Sabah
A Kurdish Judge for the ArabSaddam - Hurriyet
Iran, Kuwait, Israel Rejoice Over Saddam Trial - Milliyet
EU Begins Screening Process for Turkey - Aksam
Barroso: Bush Supports Turkey's EU Membership - Turkiye
Barroso: Turkey Must Remake Its Image in Europe - Milliyet
Boeing: Turkey to Buy 180 Passenger Planes - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Hadley: We Must Encourage Moderate Islamists - Radikal
Saddam Challenges Court, Pleads Not Guilty - Cumhuriyet
EU: Turkish Bureaucracy Resists Reforms - Yeni Safak
Kyrgyz Parliamentary Delegation Visits Northern Cyprus - Radikal
Erdogan to Take 36 Million USD to Pakistan - Yeni Safak
Earthquake Death Toll 100,000 in Pakistan - Yeni Safak
UNICEF: 10,000 Children Face Death Risk in Pakistan - Radikal
Schroeder, Merkel Fight over Turkey - Yeni Safak
Armenia Wants to Build New Nuclear Power Plant - Radikal
Fundamentalist Violence in Algeria: 20 Killed - Cumhuriyet
Hurricane Wilma May Reach Florida By Weekend - Radikal

BRIEFING

Hadley Addresses Council on Foreign Relations: President Bush's National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley said in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) yesterday in New York that a struggle is under way for the 'soul of Islam,' an ideological struggle for the support and loyalty of the Muslim world, "Radikal" reports. Winning this struggle will require a direct challenge to the extremist voices within Islam, Hadley said. Hadley noted that the world has seen the terrorists' vision of governance in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, which 'imposed an artificial conformity that eliminated individual freedom, enslaved women, destroyed the nation's cultural history, and ruled by terror.' The antidote, Hadley said, is 'democracy, justice and the freedom agenda.' 'This is obviously not something the American government can do. It is Muslim voices from around the world that must take up this challenge,' Hadley stressed, and added: 'Muslim clerics and legal scholars in the United States and elsewhere have issued statements condemning terrorism. We must champion these efforts and empower other moderate voices throughout the Muslim world that stand for peace and tolerance.' Hadley warned that 'withdrawal from the fight' will not make the threat go away.

MFA on Iraq, PKK: Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Spokesman Namik Tan said at a weekly press briefing on Wednesday that Turkey is closely following and supports the political process in Iraq. 'It will be useful to send a team to Iraq, under the auspices of the UN, to monitor the parliamentary elections in the country,' Tan said, stressing the importance of broad participation in the December polls. Commenting on Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's statements regarding the outlawed PKK, Tan said that the US was one of the first countries to declare the PKK a terrorist organization. 'We naturally expect a friendly and allied country like the US to fulfill its responsibilities stemming from that friendship and alliance,' Tan said.

Erdogan to Visit Earthquake-Stricken Pakistan: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, accompanied by businessmen and humanitarian aid agencies, headed to Pakistan on Thursday to show Turkey's support for the quake-stricken country. Erdogan took to Pakistan 36 million USD in assistance and five cargo planes with relief supplies. Erdogan will meet with Pakistani President Musharraf and Prime Minister Aziz

in Islamabad before returning home later in the day.

EU Kicks Off Turkey Screening Process: The EU meeting which will mark the opening of Turkey's EU screening process will take place on Thursday in Brussels, papers report. A 30-member Turkish delegation, consisting of science and technology experts, will meet with EU officials to initiate the screening of the first chapters to be broached during the negotiation process -- science, education, and culture. The talks will be made up of 35 chapters in which Turkey will try to bring its entire system into line with EU legislation. The screening process is expected to continue until September 2006.

EU: Turkish Bureaucracy Resists Reforms: The EU Commission Progress Report on Turkey will stress that judiciary and institutions such as the Foundations Directorate, the media watchdog (RTUK), and the Higher Education Board (YOK) are resisting EU reforms, the all-news channel CNN-Turk reports. The Commission told Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) officials in Brussels last week that despite progress in legal arrangements, the implementation of reforms has been problematic in Turkey. The Commission advised the Turks to end the resistance displayed by the Turkish bureaucracy. The Commission, believing that the influence of the military in politics is still strong in Turkey, said that statements by the military must be restricted to defense and security issues.

Allawi Due in Ankara: Former Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi will visit Ankara on Friday for talks, papers report. Allawi, leader of the Iraqi National Accord, will be received by Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul and hold talks with Turkish officials on the existing situation and possible developments in Iraq.

Erdogan to Britain Next Week: Prime Minister Erdogan is to visit the UK October 27 to press for a breakthrough on the Cyprus problem, "Turkiye" reports. Erdogan will propose to EU leaders in London that the EU lift all restrictions on northern Cyprus, and will stress that the Turks are ready to negotiate with the Greek Cypriots within the framework of UN initiatives, according to the report.

Turkey to Respond to Greek Cypriot Exercise: Papers report that the Turkish Air Force intends to respond to the Greek Cypriots' decision to hold the Nikiforos military exercise by flying F-16s over the island and landing them on the airstrip in Gecitkale. "Radikal" claims that the Turks have informed the United States of their intention to counter the Greek Cypriot exercise with a 'Toros' exercise. 'Toros' has not been held for the past four years. The article claims that Turkish land and naval forces will also be involved in the exercise.

Kyrgyz Delegation Calls in Turkish Cyprus: Papers report that a Kyrgyz parliamentary delegation arrived in northern Cyprus as the guest of 'TRNC' Foreign Minister Serdar Denktas on Wednesday. The Kyrgyz delegation of 3 deputy ministers and 15 lawmakers arrived at Ercan Airport on a Cyprus Turkish Airlines (KTHY) plane from Istanbul. Arslan Maliev, the head of the delegation, said that the Turkish and Greek Cypriots made their positions clear in the referendum held in April last year, and that the world had seen which side had 'good intentions.' 'The isolation of the Turkish Cypriots should end at once,' Maliyev said. The Kyrgyz delegation will meet with 'state and government officials,' and visit universities and historical sites on Thursday before departing northern Cyprus over the weekend.

Aksu Visits Russia: Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu discussed international terrorism and cooperation against international organized crime with his Russian counterpart Rashid Gumarovich Nurgaliyev on Wednesday in Moscow, dailies report. Nurgaliyev said after meeting with Aksu that Russia and Turkey exchanged information with regard to more than 900 subjects in the first nine months of 2005 through the mediation of Interpol. The majority of the information exchange was about economic crimes, he said. The two ministers also discussed the issue of extradition of criminals. The Russian Interior Ministry said that the two ministers decided to hold the next meeting of the Russian-Turkish working groups in Ankara in 2006.

University Rector Detained on Corruption Charges: The Higher Education Council (YOK) Rectors Committee held an extraordinary meeting yesterday to discuss the arrest of Professor Yucel Askin, rector of Yuzuncu Yil University in the eastern province of Van, on charges of corruption, papers report. In a statement after the meeting, YOK chairman Erdogan Tezic stressed that Professor Askin had been detained because he was 'trying to protect the secular order at the university.' 'Standing by Askin means standing by the republic,' Tezic said. The rectors of 70 universities signed a joint letter protesting the arrest of Askin on 'baseless charges,' and accusing the government of attempting to give Turkish universities an Islamic identity.

The rectors agreed to go to Van on Sunday in a show of support to their imprisoned colleague. Meanwhile, "Milliyet" reports that in the 2006 draft budget, the AKP government had reduced the funds apportioned to Van University and the YOK. The paper underlines that no cuts were made in the budgets of other educational institutions.

Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline Reopens After Six Weeks: The pumping of oil has recommenced through the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline, which had been bombed some six weeks ago by Iraqi insurgents. The pipeline runs from the oil-rich Kirkuk area in northern Iraq to the port of Ceyhan on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, and has a capacity of 1.5 million barrels a day. Iraqi oil officials stated that the pipeline has been repaired and is now pumping 700,000 barrels a day at pre-war prices to storage facilities in Ceyhan.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Saddam's Trial

"Who is Holding the Trial?"
Okay Gonensin commented in the mass appeal "Vatan" (10/20): "All political trials bring the same crucial question to mind: Who is really holding the trial? In the case of Saddam, he is being tried by the American administration and pro-American Iraqis. This factor weakens the ones who are presiding at the trial and strengthens the one who is being tried. Following the US occupation, Iraq was essentially divided into three. Shiites do not hide their sympathy for the Iranian administration, while the Kurds are doing their best to be supportive of the US at all costs so that they can reach their ultimate goal -- an independent Kurdish state. . The acquittal of Saddam at this trial is very unlikely. But the verdict will not have a significant impact, either on his supporters or his opponents. . Saddam Hussein was a cruel and archaic dictator. But if he is able to survive in the 21st century, he should express his appreciation to the US administration more than anyone else."

"Iraq Disintegrates, But Do we have a Plan B?"
Cuneyt Ulsever commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (10/20): "The only thing certain about the Turkish government's Iraq policy is the desire to protect Iraq's territorial integrity. It is obvious that the American struggle is also concentrated in that direction. But with every passing day, it becomes more clear that the US is not being successful in this struggle. Although the constitutional referendum resulted in a majority of 'yes' votes, implementing the constitution seems almost impossible. Moreover, even if the constitution is implemented, it contains many clauses that encourage the country's dissolution. Meanwhile, there is a growing desire in the US to pull out of Iraq as quickly as possible. So the possibility of Iraqi disintegration increases with every passing day. What is our plan B for this strong possibility?"

"The Trial of Saddam"
Turgut Tarhanli wrote in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (10/20): "Saddam's trial should have taken place in an international forum made up of UN-designated international judicial officials. All the charges he faces are crimes under international law. Even chiefs of state can not be immune from such charges. There could be two reasons for him not being tried by the international courts: It could be an effort by the occupation forces to protect their influence in Iraq during the legal process. Or it could be part of an effort to use Saddam's trial as a positive turning point in the power struggle going on in the country. In the end, Iraq remains the same Iraq, and the current trial is about as legitimate as the ones that took place before 2003."

"Saddam Should Be Tried, But What About You?"
Ibrahim Karagul argued in the Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (10/20): "Of course Saddam should be tried, but this must take place in an international court. There will never be a fair ruling coming from a court made up of those who hate him. . Those who were oppressed are becoming more cruel than their previous oppressor. There have been many crimes against humanity since the occupation began, including massacres in Fallujah and Tal Afar, and torture centers in northern Iraq. Who will bring those crimes before a court? . Yes, Saddam should be tried. He has to pay for the agony he caused. He is a dictator and he is guilty. But those who try Saddam are also guilty. Who is going to judge them?"

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